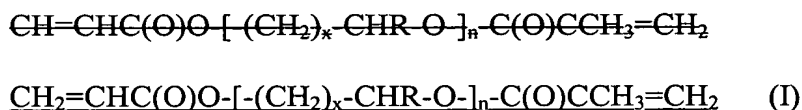


Application No.: 10/042,232
Amendment Dated: August 7, 2003
Reply to Office Action of: May 7, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 6-12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

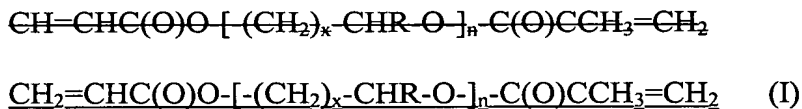
--This invention relates to a method for preparing asymmetric (meth)acrylate crosslinking agents with the general formula (I) with $x = 1, 2, 3$, $R = H, CH_3$, $n = 1-100$



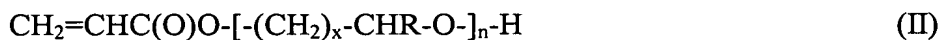
and the use of the crosslinking agents prepared by this method for the synthesis of superabsorbers and thickening agents.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 2-11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It has now been found that asymmetric (meth)acrylate crosslinking agents of Formula (I) with $x = 1, 2, 3$, $R = H, CH_3$, $n = 1-100$



are readily available by reacting hydroxyacrylates of Formula (II)



with methacrylic anhydride to form (I) and methacrylic acid.--

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✓ ✓
Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 19-22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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--The hydroxyacrylates (II) are available on the market. Hydroxyethyl acrylate and hydroxypropyl acrylate, for example, are described by Gruber et al. (U.S. patent 3,987,090) 4-hydroxybutyl acrylate is available according to EPA 0465853 (the portions of each relevant to the production of hydroxy acrylate is incorporated herein by reference). The hydroxyacrylate may be based on a polytetrahydrofuran chain.--